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**Marcus Roberts: Deep in the Shed**  
**JALC Radio**  
**Season 17**  
**Episode 25; Airdate 3/18/2010**

1) **Music:** E. Dankworth - Marcus from Deep in the Shed CD

2) **Pierce:**

MARCUS ROBERTS IS ONE OF THOSE MUSICIANS WHO ENJOYS THE TENSION BETWEEN THE BLUES TRADITION AND THE MUSIC OF, LET'S CALL IT -- 'THE WESTERN CLASSICAL TRADITION'

HIS 1989 RECORDING "DEEP IN THE SHED" WAS A COLLECTION OF SIX TRACKS HE CALLED A "BLUES SUITE" A TERM THAT HINTS OF THE CONSERVATORY - AS MUCH AS IT DOES THE BLUES. IT WAS ONE OF THE BEST-SELLING JAZZ ALBUMS OF 1990.

3) **Music:**

4) **Pierce:**

TWENTY YEARS LATER, MARCUS ROBERTS HAS COME BACK TO "DEEP IN THE SHED" BUT NOT JUST TO RECREATE THE ORIGINAL RECORDING.

THE PERFORMANCE WE'RE ABOUT TO HEAR IS FULL OF SURPRISES. THESE PLAYERS AREN'T JUST "REVISITING" ROBERTS' SUITE -- THEY'RE *REMODELLING* THIS "SHED" FOR A NEW

CENTURY. I'M WENDELL PIERCE. WELCOME TO JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER.

**5) Music:** up and out

**6) Pierce:**

WITH "DEEP IN THE SHED", MARCUS ROBERTS FOLLOWS THE RULES OF THE MUSIC CONSERVATORY TO MAKE THE BLUES. HE FRAMES THE IDEA LIKE AN ARCHITECT -- THE SUITE IS MADE OF SIX 12-BAR BLUES. EACH ONE GOES THROUGH ALL TWELVE KEYS OF THE CLASSICAL TRADITION. YOU WON'T NECESSARILY KNOW THAT FROM HEARING THEM, MARCUS.ROBERTS DOESN'T LET THOSE RULES GET IN THE WAY.

HE'S BROUGHT A NONET TO OUR HOUSE OF SWING -- AND THEY TAKE THE STAGE IN THE ALLEN ROOM TO OPEN WITH "THE GOVERNOR."

**7) Music:** The Governor AND Mysterious Interlude (18:30)

**8) Pierce:**

"MYSTERIOUS INTERLUDE" FROM PIANIST MARCUS ROBERTS' BLUES SUITE, "DEEP IN THE SHED". BEFORE THAT WE HEARD "THE GOVERNOR" -- WITH "WARMDADDY" WES ANDERSON ON THE ALTO SAX; DEREK DOUGET AND STEVE RILEY ON TENORS, ETIENNE CHARLES AND ALPHONSO HORN ON TRUMPETS, RON WESTRAY DOING THE HONORS ON THE TROMBONE WITH ROLAND GUERIN ON THE BASS AND JASON MARSALIS AT THE DRUMS. YOU CAN FIND A VIDEO OF MARCUS PERFORMANCE ON "THE GOVERNOR" UNDER "RESOURCES" AT J A L C (DOT) ORG (SLASH) JAZZCAST.

**8) Pierce:** (continues)

MARCUS ROBERTS 'BLUES SUITE' NOT ONLY GOES THROUGH A CYCLE OF KEYS BUT ALSO A RANGE OF BLUES STYLES FROM THE MONK-LIKE BOP OF 'THE GOVERNOR' TO THE SWAYING STRAINS OF GOSPEL. THIS NEXT PIECE WAS INSPIRED BY MAHALIA JACKSON – “I LISTEN A LOT TO MAHALIA, SAYS ROBERTS, ‘SHE HAS A LOT OF IMPACT ON HOW I PLAY AND I COMPOSE.

FROM 'DEEP IN THE SHED' THIS IS "SPIRITUAL AWAKENING."

9) Music: Spiritual Awakening (9:20)

10) Pierce:

'SPIRITUAL AWAKENING' FROM PIANIST MARCUS ROBERTS' NEW INTERPRETATION OF HIS BLUES SUITE, "DEEP IN THE SHED." JOINING ROBERTS IN THE ALLEN ROOM: WESS "WARMDADDY" ANDERSON ON THE ALTO SAX; DEREK DOUGET AND STEPHEN RILEY ON TENORS, ETIENNE CHARLES AND ALPHONSO HORN PLAYING TRUMPET; TROMBONIST RON WESTRAY, WITH ROLAND GUERIN PLAYING THE BASS AND JASON MARSALIS AT THE DRUMS.

MORE SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS AWAIT YOU, DAY OR NIGHT, AT J-A-L-C (DOT) ORG, WHERE YOU CAN HEAR THIS PROGRAM AGAIN, AND EVEN SEE VIDEO FROM THIS CONCERT. ALONG WITH OUR SCRIPTS, PHOTOS, AND NEWS FROM THE RHYTHM ROAD, IT'S ALL AT J A L C (DOT) ORG. SO BRING HOME THE SWING.

AFTER THIS BREAK, A BLUES PORTRAIT OF AN ANCIENT BABYLONIAN KING. I'M WENDELL PIERCE, THIS IS JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER.

**11) Midbreak Music: E. Dankworth from Deep in the Shed**

**12) Pierce:**

BORN IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA IN 1963. MARCUS ROBERTS WAS BLINDED AT THE AGE OF FOUR BY CATARACTS. FORTUNATELY, THAT LED HIM TO AN EDUCATION AT THE FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND, THE ALMA MATER OF RAY CHARLES.

ALONG WITH A CLASSICAL MUSIC EDUCATION THERE, ROBERTS PICKED UP ON THE GIANTS OF JAZZ PIANO INCLUDING SCOTT JOPLIN, JELLY ROLL MORTON, AND THELONIOUS MONK. SHORTLY AFTER WYNTON MARSALIS HEARD ROBERTS AT THE AGE OF 21, HE INVITED HIM TO JOIN HIS GROUP.

AFTER A STINT IN WYNTON'S BANDS, ROBERTS FORMED HIS OWN ENSEMBLES AND WINNING ATTENTION AND ACCLAIM WITH INVENTIVE RENDITIONS OF GERSHWIN, MONK AND JOPLIN. NOW, WHEN HE'S NOT TOURING, ROBERTS TEACHES JAZZ AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY.

**12) Pierce (continues):**

DEEP IN THE SHED EMERGED FROM THE NEW HARLEM RENAISSANCE OF THE 1980s -- EXPLORING THE DEEP MEMORY OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE –WITH AN OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE TO A BABYLONIAN KING.

IN THE ALLEN ROOM, MARCUS ROBERTS,  
“NABUCHADNEZZAR.”

**13) Nebuchadnezzar (10:40)**

**14) Pierce:**

*NEBUCHADNEZZAR* FROM THE BLUES SUITE "DEEP IN THE SHED." WITH WES "WARMDADDY" ANDERSON ON THE ALTO SAX; ETIENNE CHARLES AND ALPHONSO HORN, TRUMPETS; DEREK DOUGET AND STEPHEN RILEY PLAYING TENOR SAX; ROLAND GUERIN ON THE BASS; RON WESTRAY, TROMBONE; AND JASON MARSALIS AT THE DRUMS.

IN HIS NOTES FOR THE ORIGINAL RECORDING, STANLEY CROUCH WRITES: “TO STEP “DEEP INTO THE SHED” IS TO DEVOTE ONESELF TO SERIOUS STUDY AND PRACTICE, -- TO COME FACE TO FACE WITH...THE IMPOSING MAGNITUDE OF ONE'S ART AND THE SOMETIMES NEARLY DAUNTING DETAILS OF ONE'S OWN LIMITATIONS... GUTBUCKET-GIFTED MARCUS ROBERTS UNDERSTANDS THAT QUITE WELL. AND SO WE WRAP

UP OUR PROGRAM WITH THE TITLE TRACK FROM ROBERTS' BLUES SUITE, "DEEP IN THE SHED"

**15) Deep in the Shed (13:27)**

**16) Pierce:**

FROM DEEP IN THE HOUSE OF SWING, A TWENTY FIRST CENTURY EDITION OF THE LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY JAZZ LANDMARK. MARCUS ROBERTS "DEEP IN THE SHED"

ON STAGE WES "WARMDADDY" ANDERSON ON THE ALTO SAX; ETIENNE CHARLES AND ALPHONSO HORN PLAYING TRUMPETS; STEPHEN RILEY AND DEREK DOUGET ON TENOR SAXES; RON WESTRAY, TROMBONE; ROLAND GUERIN PLAYING BASS; AND JASON MARSALIS AT THE DRUMS --IN THE ALLEN ROOM AT THE HOUSE OF SWING

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE VISITING OUR HOME CITY, COME SEE FREDERICK P. ROSE HALL – GET CONNECTED AT J A L C DOT ORG. YOU CAN HEAR OUR PROGRAM AGAIN, FIND VIDEOS OF THE PERFORMANCES AND MUCH MORE. J A L C DOT ORG. BRING HOME THE SWING.

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER RADIO IS PRODUCED AT MURRAY STREET. THIS EDITION WAS WRITTEN BY JACKSON BRAIDER. OUR PRODUCERS ARE DAVID GOREN, ALEXA LIM AND STEPHEN RATHE.

THE RECORDINGS WERE MADE BY SAUNDRA PALMER GRASSI WITH ROB MACUMBER AND JEFF ROTHMAN AT XM STUDIOS.

ADDITIONAL RECORDINGS AT AUDIO WORKS BY JEFFREY TALBOT. CAT HENRY SUPERVISES OUR BROADCASTS AND RECORDINGS. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER IS ADRIAN ELLIS, THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR IS WYNTON MARSALIS.

I'M WENDELL PIERCE. THANKS FOR JOINING US.